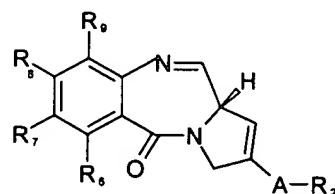
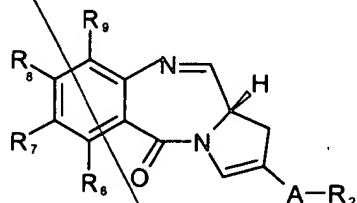


In the claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 11, 14, 22-24 and 39.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Once amended.) A compound of the formula Ia or Ib:



BS

wherein:

A is CH₂, or a single bond;

R₂ is selected from: R, OH, OR, CO₂H, CO₂R, COH, COR, SO₂R, CN;

R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more hetero atoms which may form part of, or be, a functional group;

and where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula Ia or Ib, where the R₈ groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R¹-X- linking the monomers, where R¹ is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N;

Sub.
B8 C1
or R₇ and R₈ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2; with the proviso that when A is a single bond, then R₂ is not CH=CR^AR^B, where R^A and R^B are independently selected from H, R^C, COR^C, CONH₂, CONHR^C, CONR^C₂, cyano or phosphonate, where R^C is an unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

B6 Sub
D1 3. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is CH₂.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

Sub
C2
B7
6. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is a single bond, and R₂ is an aryl group, or an alkyl or alkaryl group which contains at least one double bond which forms part of a conjugated system with a double bond of a pyrrolobenzodiazepine.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

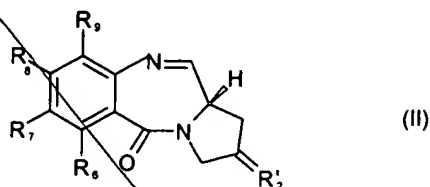
B8 Sub
D1 7. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R₆, R₇ and R₉ and, unless the compound is a dimer, R₈ are independently selected from H and OR.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

B9 Sub
D1 12. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1 which is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula -O-(CH₂)_q-O-, where q is from 3 to 12.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (Once amended.) A compound of formula III:



wherein:

R₂ is selected from: O;

R₆, R₇ and R₈ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more hetero atoms which may form part of, or be, a functional group;

and where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula III, where the R₈ groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R¹-X- linking the monomers, where R¹ is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

- Sub
DI
B11
15. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 13, wherein R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, OR or a halogen atom.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

- B12 Sub
DI
16. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, OMe, OCH₂Ph, and I.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

- B13 Sub
DI
17. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R₇ is OR or a halogen and R₆ and R₉ are H.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

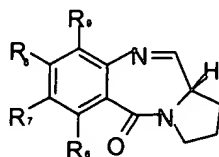
- B14 Sub
DI
18. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 17, wherein R₇ is selected from OMe, OCH₂Ph or I.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

- B15 Sub
DI
19. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 13, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula -O-(CH₂)_q-O-, where q is from 3 to 12.

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

20. (Once amended.) A compound of the formula III:



(III)

wherein:

R₆, R₇ and R₉ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more hetero atoms which may form part of, or be, a functional group;

and R₈ is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me₃Sn, where R is as defined above or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula III, where the R₈ groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R¹-X- linking the monomers, where R¹ is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R₇ and R₈ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2; wherein at least one of R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ is NH₂.

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

- B17
SUB
DI
25. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 20, wherein at least one of R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ is an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, which is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally contains one or more hetero atoms which may form part of, or be, a functional group.

Please amend claim 28 as follows:

- B18
28. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 20 where the compound is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula -O-(CH₂)_q-O-, where q is from 3 to 12.

Please amend claim 31 as follows:

- B19
31. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 29, wherein R₇ is an electron donating group.

Please amend claim 32 as follows:

- B20 SUB
DI
32. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 29, wherein R₆ and R₉ are selected from H and OR.

Please amend claim 34 as follows:

- B21 SUB
DI
34. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 30, wherein n is 1 to 3.

Please amend claim 35 as follows:

- B22
SUB
DI
35. (Once amended.) A compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 wherein R is selected from a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups.

Please amend claim 38 as follows:

B23
Sub
C6
38. (Once amended.) A method of treating a condition which can be treated by regulation of gene expression comprising administering a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment.

Please amend claim 40 as follows:

B24
Sub
C7
40. (Once amended.) A method of treating a gene-based disease comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment.

Please amend claim 41 as follows:

B25
41. (Once amended.) A method of treating a viral, parasitic or bacterial infection comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment.

Please amend claim 43 as follows:

B26
Sub
C9
43. (Once amended.) A method of treating a cisplatin-refractory disease comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment.

Please amend claim 44 as follows:

B27
Sub
C10
44. (Once amended.) A method of inhibiting the growth of cisplatin-refractory cells which method comprises treating said cells with a compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29.

Please amend claim 45 as follows:

B28
45. (Once amended.) A method according to claim 44 wherein said compound is 1,1'-[[[(Propane-1,3-diyl)dioxy]bis(11a5)-7-methoxy-2-methylidene-1,2,3,11a-tetrahydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c] [1,4] benzodiazepin-5-one].

Please add the following new claims.

Sub
C11

46. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Sub
C12
B29

47. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 13
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

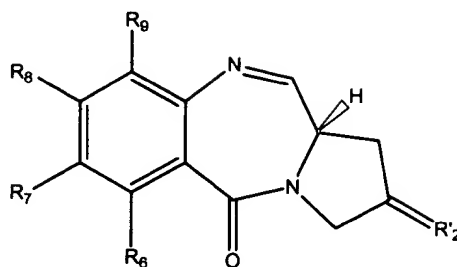
Sub
C13

48. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 20
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Sub
C14

49. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 29
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

50. A compound of formula III:



wherein:

R'_2 is CH_2 ;

R_6 , R_7 and R_9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn ;

where R is lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more hetero atoms which may form part of, or be, a functional group;

and R_8 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me_3Sn , where R is as defined above or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula III, where the R_8 groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula $-X-R^1-X-$ linking the monomers, where R^1 is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R_7 and R_8 together form group $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2.

51. A compound according to claim 50, wherein R_6 , R_7 and R_9 and, unless the compound is a dimer, R_8 are independently selected from H, OR or a halogen atom.

52. A compound according to claim 51, wherein R₆, R₇ and R₉ and, unless the compound is a dimer, R₈ are independently selected from H, OMe, OCH₂Ph, and I.

53. A compound according to claim 51, wherein R₇ and, unless the compound is a dimer, R₈ are independently OR or a halogen atom and R₆ and R₉ are H.

54. A compound according to claim 53, wherein R₇ and, unless the compound is a dimer, R₈ are independently selected from OMe, OCH₂Ph or I.

55. A compound according to claim 50 which is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula -O-(CH₂)_q-O-, where q is from 3 to 12.